

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Congresswoman Niki Tsongas
U.S. House of Representatives
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Tsongas,

The Acton Community Preservation Committee strongly supports the funding of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) as a High Priority Project (HPP) under the upcoming SAFETEA-LU legislation. The BFRT is an extremely popular project supported by Town and State elected officials, and by thousands of citizens. In particular the Phase 2A and 2C towns (Acton, Carlisle, Concord and Westford) have overwhelmingly supported the BFRT in Town Meeting votes, more times than not unanimously. The Town of Acton, through Community Preservation funds, has dedicated over \$450,000 to the planning and design of the project.

The BFRT will ultimately provide a safe, environmentally friendly transportation link along a nearly 30-mile stretch from Lowell to Framingham. As concern for the environment grows, and the cost of energy rises, more and more people are using bicycles and their own feet to run errands and to commute to work. The BFRT will provide the area with an alternative transportation mode that is safe and reliable for people to use on a daily basis. It will increase the use of alternative transportation modes, and lessen the load on traditional commuter routes throughout the area.

While the feasibility of the BFRT has been shown in each town along the route, only the first section in Chelmsford and Westford is currently under construction, due to delays in funding. Including the BFRT in the HPP list will provide necessary funding for the final design and construction that is required for Phase 2 of the project, through the Towns of Westford, Carlisle, Acton, and Concord. Our communities have been working hard for twenty years to see this project completed, and continue to wholeheartedly support the effort.

Thank you for your consideration and your support for the completion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sghia-Hughes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth Sghia-Hughes, Chair
Acton Community Preservation Committee